

discipline that is rooted in Chinese culture and based on beliefs in truthfulness, benevolence and forbearance.

Since its introduction in 1992, it quickly spread by word of mouth throughout China and it is now practiced in over 50 countries in the world. With government estimates of as many as 100 million practicing Falun Gong, China's President Zemin outlawed the peaceful practice in July 1999. Since 1999, over 400 practitioners in mainland China have been killed and thousands have been forced into labor and concentration camps, mental institutions and reeducation centers.

Yesterday's debate of House Concurrent Resolution 188 was a step in the right direction, but I urge my colleagues to show their support to Falun Gong practitioners visiting Washington, D.C. this week.

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Let us show them that religious persecution will not be tolerated in this country, or any other country of the world.

PREPARING FOR NEW CHALLENGES FOR AMERICA

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this week legislation creating the new Homeland Security Department will come before this Chamber for consideration. It will mark perhaps the most historic congressional debate in decades. The last time Congress considered such a considerable reorganization of the Federal Government was back in 1947 under the Truman administration. Now we must once again reorganize the Federal Government to better meet the new challenges that our country faces.

Mr. Speaker, I have been quite impressed with the commitment of both this House and of the administration to move forward expeditiously with a plan to create an efficient and effective Department of Homeland Security.

I have been greatly concerned over turf wars between agencies and among our congressional committees, yet our committees have worked together in a true bipartisan fashion for the people of America.

I look forward to our debate on the Homeland Security Department, and am confident that our work will enable our Nation to be better prepared for the new challenges it faces in the 21st century.

FINDING A CURE FOR LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every day in America 15 people are diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's

disease, amounting to more than 5,600 people each year. The average life expectancy for people with this disease is only 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS, is a fatal illness that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord. When these nerve cells die, a person loses muscle control. People with advanced stages of the disease can be totally paralyzed, yet their minds remain sharp and alert.

However, there is hope. Recent advances allow people with Lou Gehrig's disease to live longer lives. New breakthroughs have occurred, due in large part to the efforts of the ALS Association. The association provides the largest private source of funding for researching the cause, and ultimately, the cure for Lou Gehrig's disease.

I commend the efforts of the Carolinas Chapter of the ALS Association and Executive Director Jerry Dawson for their commitment and dedication in caring for those with Lou Gehrig's disease in both North Carolina and South Carolina. Their efforts today will bring us closer to finding a cure tomorrow for Lou Gehrig's disease.

STOPPING PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week we are debating a bill to ban partial-birth abortion. We will hear a lot of perspectives in this debate, but I think there is one perspective we may not hear, and that is the baby's perspective.

I have an article from the Journal of the American Medical Association that might help us understand just what the baby goes through during a partial-birth abortion. The article is written by Dr. Sprang and Dr. Neerhof of Northwestern University Medical School.

They say in their article, "The centers necessary for pain perception develop early in the second trimester."

Mr. Speaker, most partial-birth abortions happen in the second and third trimesters. Dr. Sprang and Dr. Neerhof say the vast majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on near-viable babies. They say, "When infants of similar gestational ages are delivered, pain management is an important part of the care rendered to them in the intensive care nursery. But in a partial-birth abortion, pain management is not provided for the fetus, who is literally within inches of being delivered."

Mr. Speaker, killing children by painfully stabbing them in the back of the head and sucking out their brains is wrong. It is up to us to stop it.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND AND ABORTION

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the common accusation in Washington, D.C. is that we say one thing and then do another. It was back in the campaign of 2000 and in March of this year that President George W. Bush pledged to the American people that he would not permit taxpayer dollars to be used to fund abortion. Specifically, in March of this year the President said, "I said we are not going to use taxpayer money to fund abortion. I am going to make sure we are not using taxpayer money to fund abortion."

Yesterday the President, as has been his wont with the American people, the President once again was a man as good as his word. The State Department announced that UNFPA funding would be denied in its entirety and diverted to other children's services at the United Nations.

This institution gave more than \$34 million to the United Nations Family Planning Fund, despite overwhelming evidence presented before House committees and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence that China was engaged in forced and coercive abortion practices.

I rise today to extol the President of the United States for being a man as good as his word, for standing with the American people in their fundamental belief in the dignity and the sanctity of human life.

APPLAUDING PRESIDENT BUSH FOR REDIRECTING UNFPA FUND- ING TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has provided hope to oppressed women everywhere, especially in China, promising them that the United States will no longer subsidize those who engage in forced abortion and other coercive population control programs.

For over 20 years, Mr. Speaker, the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) has enabled facilitated, and shamelessly whitewashed terrible crimes against humanity, especially crimes against women, and the United States will now no longer have any part in subsidizing them. In refusing to fund the UNFPA, our President and our country have taken the side of the oppressed and have refused to cooperate with the oppressor. The United States will now no longer directly or indirectly fund the brutal, oppressive Chinese Government's violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, as Secretary of State Colin Powell said yesterday, UNFPA funds have provided crucial technical support that has made China's barbaric program more effective. That means that as a result of UNFPA's complicity with China's antilife program more women are targeted for forced abortions.